



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshifumi TAKAOKA et al.

Application No.: 09/694,021

Filed: October 23, 2000

For: CONTROL APPARATUS FOR TRANSMISSION-EQUIPPED HYBRID VEHICLE,
AND CONTROL METHOD FOR THE SAME

#5/Election.
Group Art Unit: 2834
Hawkins
3/28/02

Examiner: J. Waks

Docket No.: 106967

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated March 1, 2002, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-6 and 20-23. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions". It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:MAC/ccs
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